

Peter's Youth

The infuriated Streltsy remembered all their reasons for marching on the Kremlin: The Naryshkins were to be punished, hated boyars like Dolgoruky were to be destroyed. A torrent of frenzied Streltsy charged up the Red Staircase toward their commander. They seized him by his robe, lifted him above their heads and threw him over the balustrade onto the pikes of their comrades below. The crowd roared its approval, shouting, "Cut him to pieces!" Within a few seconds, the quivering body was butchered, bespattering everyone around with blood.

This first violent act unleashed savagery and madness. Brandishing sharp steel, lusting for more blood, the entire raging mass of the Streltsy stormed up the Red Staircase and into the palace itself. Their next victim was Matveev. He was standing in an anteroom of the banqueting hall talking to Natalya, who still held the hands of Peter and Ivan. Seeing the Streltsy rushing toward her shouting for Matveev, Natalya dropped Peter's hand and instinctively threw her arms around Matveev to protect him. The Streltsy pushed the two boys aside, tore the old man from Natalya and hurled her aside. Prince Cherkassky threw himself into the struggle, trying to pull Matveev free of his captors, but they flung him away. Before the eyes of Peter and Natalya, Matveev was dragged out of the room and across the porch to the balustrade at the head of the Red Staircase. There, with exultant cries, they lifted him high in the air and hurled him down onto the upraised blades. Within seconds, the closest friend and prime minister of Peter's father, the guardian, confidant and chief support of Peter's mother, was hacked to pieces.

With Matveev dead, there was nothing to stop the Streltsy. They ran unopposed through the state halls, private apartments, churches, kitchens and even the closets of the Kremlin, clamoring for the blood of Naryshkins and boyars. Fleeing, the terrified boyars hid where they could. The Patriarch escaped into the Cathedral of the Assumption. Only Natalya, Peter and Ivan remained exposed, huddled together in a corner of the banqueting hall.

For most, there was no escape. The Streltsy hammered down locked doors, looked under beds and behind altars, thrusting their pikes into every dark space where a human being might be hiding. Those who were caught were dragged to the Red Staircase and thrown over the balustrade. Their bodies were dragged from the Kremlin through the Spassky Gate into Red Square, where they were tossed onto a growing

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pyramid of dismembered human parts. With sharp blades at their
throats, the court dwarfs were forced to help find the Naryshkins. One
of Natalya's brothers, Afanasy Naryshkin, was hidden behind the altar
in the Church of the Resurrection. A dwarf leading a pack of Streltsy
pointed him out, and the victim was dragged by his hair to the steps of
the chancel, where he was cut to pieces. The Privy Councillor and Di-
rector of Foreign Affairs, Ivanov, his son Vasily and two colonels were
killed on the porch between the banqueting hall and the Cathedral of
the Annunciation. The aged boyar Romodanovsky was caught between
the Patriarch's palace and the Miracle Monastery, dragged by his beard
to the Cathedral Square and there raised and tossed onto spear points.

From the palace square inside the Kremlin, the bodies and pieces of
bodies, often with swords and spears still sticking in them, were dragged
through the Spassky Gate into Red Square. The passage of these grisly
remains was accompanied by jeering cries of "Here comes the Boyar
Artemon Sergeevich Matveev. . . Here comes a Privy Councillor.
Make way for him!" As the hideous pile in front of St. Basil's Cathedral
grew higher and higher, the Streltsy shouted to the watching crowds,
"These boyars loved to exalt themselves! This is their reward!"

By nightfall, even the Streltsy had begun to tire of the butchery.
There was no place for them to sleep in the Kremlin, and most began
to stream back through the city to their own houses. Despite the blood-
shed, their day had been only a partial success. Only one Naryshkin,
Natalya's brother Afanasy, had been found and killed. The chief object
of their hatred, her brother Ivan, was still at large. Accordingly, they
posted a heavy guard at all the gates of the Kremlin, sealing off escape,
and swore to return to continue the search the following day. Inside the
Kremlin, Natalya, Peter and their Naryshkin relatives spent a night of
terror. Kyril Naryshkin, the Tsaritsa's father, her brother Ivan and three
younger brothers remained concealed in the room of Peter's eight-
year-old sister, Natalya, where they had been hiding all day. They had
not been found, but they could not escape.

At dawn, the Streltsy marched again with beating drums into the
Kremlin. Still looking for Ivan Naryshkin, the two foreign doctors who
supposedly had poisoned Tsar Fedor, and other "traitors," they entered
the Patriarch's house on Cathedral Square. Looking through his cellars
and under his beds, they threatened his servants with spears and de-

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Good Y		MU
Quantity		
1		10
2		8
3		6
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5		3
6		2
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manded to see the Patriarch himself. Joachim came out, dressed in his most glittering ceremonial robes, to tell them that there were no traitors to be found in his house and that if they wished to kill someone there, they should kill him.

And so the search went on, with the Streltsy continuing to hunt through the palace, and their prey, the Naryshkins, continuing to elude them. After two days spent in the dark closets of Peter's small sister's bedroom, Natalya's father, Kyril Naryshkin, three of his sons and the young son of Matveev moved to the apartments of Tsar Fedor's young widow, the Tsaritsa Martha Apraxina. There, Ivan Naryshkin cropped his long hair, and then the small group followed an old bedchamber woman down into a dark underground storeroom. It was the old woman's idea to bolt the door, but young Matveev said, "No. If you fasten the door, the Streltsy will suspect something, break down the door, find us and kill us." The refugees therefore made the room as dark as possible and crouched in the darkest corner, leaving the door open. "We had scarcely got there," said young Matveev, "before several Streltsy passed and looked quickly around. Some of them peered in through the open door, struck their spears into the darkness, but left quickly, saying, 'It is plain our men have already been here.'"

On the third day, when the Streltsy came again to the Kremlin, they were determined to wait no longer. Their leaders mounted the Red Staircase and delivered an ultimatum: Unless Ivan Naryshkin was surrendered immediately, they would kill every boyar in the palace. They made it clear that the royal family itself was in danger.

Sophia took charge. In front of the terrified boyars, she marched up to Natalya and declared in a loud voice, "Your brother will not escape the Streltsy. Nor is it right that we should perish on his account. There is no way out. To save the lives of all of us, you must give up your brother."

It was a tragic moment for Natalya. She had seen Matveev dragged away and slaughtered. Now she was asked to yield her brother to a frightful death. Terrible though the decision was, Natalya had no real choice. She ordered the servants to bring her brother to her. He came, and she led him into a palace chapel, where he received Holy Communion and the last rites, accepting her decision and his coming death with great bravery. Weeping, Natalya handed him a holy icon of the Mother of God to hold in his hands when he went to meet the Streltsy.

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Quantity	Good Y	MU
1		10
2		8
3		6
4		4
5		3
6		2
7		1

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Meanwhile, in the face of growing threats from the impatient Streltsy, the boyars became desperate. Why was Ivan Naryshkin lingering? At any moment, the Streltsy might carry out their threats. The aged Prince Jacob Odoevsky, gentle but frightened, came up to the weeping Natalya and Ivan and said, "How long, my lady, are you keeping your brother? For you must give him up. Go on quickly, Ivan Kyrilovich, and don't let us all be killed on your account."

Following Natalya and holding the icon, Ivan Naryshkin walked to the door where the Streltsy were waiting. As he appeared, the mob uttered a hoarse shout of triumph and surged forward. Before his sister's eyes, they seized their victim and began to beat him. He was dragged by his feet down the Red Staircase, through the palace square and into a torture room, where for a number of hours they kept him in agony, trying to extract a confession that he had murdered Tsar Fedor and plotted to take the throne. Through it all, Naryshkin clenched his teeth, groaned and said not a word. Then Dr. Van Gaden, the alleged poisoner of Fedor, was brought in. Under torture, he promised to name accomplices, but as his words were being written down, his torturers, realizing the state he was in, cried, "What's the use of listening to him? Tear up the paper," and stopped the farce.

Ivan Naryshkin was now nearly dead; both his wrists and ankles had been snapped, and his hands and feet hung at strange angles. He and Van Gaden were dragged to Red Square and raised on the points of spears for a last presentation to the crowd. Lowered to earth, their hands and feet were chopped off with axes, the rest of their bodies cut into pieces and, in a final orgy of hate, the bloody remains were trampled into the mud.

The slaughter was over. One final time, the Streltsy assembled before the Red Staircase. Satisfied that they had avenged the "poisoning" of Tsar Fedor, stifled the plot of Ivan Naryshkin and killed all the men who they believed were traitors, they wished to proclaim their loyalty. From the courtyard, they cried, "We are now content. Let Your Tsarish Majesty do with the other traitors as may seem good. We are ready to lay down our heads for the Tsar, the Tsaritsa, the Tsarevich and the Tsarevnas."

Calm returned quickly. That same day, permission was given to bury the bodies which had been lying in Red Square since the first day of the

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Good Y		MU
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2		8
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Water, however, is more useful than the (total, marginal) much greater than the _____

17. The theory of consumer behavior is based on the assumption that utility is a valuable economic resource, unlimited, equal to _____ earned with it. The full price to the consumer, therefore, is the market price, plus the value of the consumption.

18. With health insurance coverage pay for health care services is less than the full price to the consumer (benefit, cost) opportunity (benefit, cost) health care.

19. A comparison of food consumption at the buffet with a pay-per-plate that people tend to eat (less, more) at the buffet because the marginal item is (positive, zero) _____ is _____

20. Noncash gifts are (less, more) preferred than cash gifts because total utility is _____

Circle T if the statement is true

TRUE-FALSE QUESTIONS

1. Utility is the benefit or satisfaction from consuming a good or service.

2. Utility and usefulness are the same thing.

3. Marginal utility is the change in total utility from a change in the quantity of a good or service consumed.

4. Because utility cannot be measured, the marginal utility theory cannot be tested.

5. The law of diminishing marginal utility states that as the quantity of a good or service consumed increases, the marginal utility of each additional unit decreases.

6. A consumer's demand curve is derived from his or her marginal utility curve.

7. If total utility is increasing, marginal utility must be positive.

8. The theory of consumer choice states that consumers act rationally.

9. All consumers are subject to the same preferences.

10. To find a consumer's indifference curve, the prices of other products must be held constant.

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id 14 based on the following utility schedules for goods X and Y. The price of good X is \$2. The income of the consumer is \$20.

Good X		Good Y	
Quantity	MU	Quantity	MU
1	10	1	10
2	8	2	8
3	6	3	6
4	4	4	4
5	3	5	3
6	2	6	2
7	1	7	1

Peter, nearing thirteen, ordered sixteen pairs of pistols, sixteen carbines with slings and brass mountings and, shortly afterward, twenty three more carbines and sixteen muskets.

By the time Peter was fourteen and he and his mother had settled permanently at Preobrazhenskoe, his martial games had transformed the summer estate into an adolescent military encampment. Peter's first "soldiers" were the small group of playmates who had been appointed to his service when he reached the age of five. They had been selected from the families of boyars to provide the Prince with a personal retinue of young noblemen who acted the roles of equerry, valet and butler; in fact they were his friends. Peter also filled his ranks by drawing from the enormous, now largely useless group of attendants of his father, Alexis, and his brother Fedor. Swarms of retainers, especially those involved in the falconry establishment of Tsar Alexis, remained in the royal service with nothing to do. Fedor's health had prevented him from hunting, Ivan was even less able to enjoy the sport and Peter disliked it. Nevertheless, all these people continued to receive salaries from the state and be fed at the Tsar's expense, and Peter decided to employ some of them in his sport.

The ranks were further swelled by other young noblemen presenting themselves for enrollment, either on their own impulse or on the urging of fathers anxious to gain the young Tsar's favor. Boys from other classes were allowed to enroll, and the sons of clerks, equerry, stable grooms and even serfs in the service of noblemen were set beside the sons of boyars. Among these young volunteers of obscure origin was a boy one year younger than the Tsar named Alexander Danilovich Menshikov. Eventually, 300 of these boys and young men had mustered on the Preobrazhenskoe estate. They lived in barracks, trained like soldiers, used soldiers' talk and received soldiers' pay. Peter held them as his special comrades, and from this collection of young noblemen and stable boys he eventually created the proud Preobrazhensky Regiment. Until the fall of the Russian monarchy in 1917, this was the first regiment of the Russian Imperial Guard, whose colonel was always the Tsar himself and whose proudest claim was that it had been founded by Peter the Great.

Soon, all the quarters available in the little village of Preobrazhenskoe were filled, but Peter's boy army kept expanding. New barracks

the royal couple. On the basis of accounts from others, Weber described this festivity, which was attended by seventy-two dwarfs:

A very little dwarf marched at the head of the procession, as being the marshal . . . conductor and master of the ceremony. He was followed by the bride and bridegroom neatly dressed. Then came the Tsar attended by his ministers, princes, boyars, officers and others; next marched all the dwarfs of both sexes in couples. They were in all seventy-two, some in the service of the Tsar, the Tsarina Dowager, the Prince and Princess Menshikov, and other persons of distinction, but others had been sent for from all parts of Russia, however remote. At the church, the priest asked the bridegroom whether he would take his bride to be his wife in a loud voice. He answered in a loud voice, addressing himself to his beloved, "You and no other." The bride being asked whether she had not made any promise of marriage to another than her bridegroom, she answered, "That would be very pretty, indeed." However, when the main question came to be asked, whether she would have the bridegroom for her husband, she uttered her "Yes" with such a low voice as could hardly be heard, which occasioned a good deal of laughter to the company. The Tsar, in token of his favor, was pleased to hold the garland over the bride's head according to the Russian custom. The ceremony being over, the company went by water to the Prince Menshikov's palace. Dinner was prepared in a spacious hall, where two days before the Tsar had entertained the guests invited to the Duke's marriage. Several small tables were placed in the middle of the hall for the new-married couple and the rest of the dwarfs, who were all splendidly dressed after the German fashion. After dinner the dwarfs began to dance after the Russian way, which lasted till eleven at night. It is easy to imagine how much the Tsar and the rest of the company were delighted at the comical capers, strange grimaces, and odd postures of that medley of pygmies, most of whom were of a size the mere sight of which was enough to provoke laughter.

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- Circle T if the statement is TRUE-FALSE QUESTIONS
1. Utility is the benefit or pleasure derived from consuming a good or service.
 2. Utility and usefulness are the same thing.
 3. Marginal utility is the change in total utility from consuming one more unit of a good or service.
 4. Because utility cannot be measured, the marginal utility theory cannot be tested.
 5. The law of diminishing marginal utility states that as the quantity of a good or service consumed increases, the total utility increases at a decreasing rate.
 6. A consumer's demand curve is derived from his marginal utility curve.
 7. If total utility is increasing, marginal utility is positive.
 8. The theory of consumer choice is based on the assumption that consumers act rationally.
 9. All consumers are subject to the same law of diminishing marginal utility.
 10. To find a consumer's demand curve, we must know his marginal utility curve.

11. Non-cash gifts are (less preferred than cash gifts because they are not cash).
12. A comparison of food and clothing (less preferred than food because they are not food).
13. A comparison of food and clothing (less preferred than food because they are not food).
14. A comparison of food and clothing (less preferred than food because they are not food).
15. A comparison of food and clothing (less preferred than food because they are not food).
16. A comparison of food and clothing (less preferred than food because they are not food).
17. The theory of consumer choice is based on the assumption that consumers act rationally.
18. With health insurance coverage, the value of the consumer's time is, therefore, the market (time) earned with it. The full-price to the consumer is (less than, equal to, more than) the market price.
19. This is a valuable economic resource (supply) to account for (supply, demand) the (total, marginal) utility of the good.
20. Water, however, is more useful than the (total, marginal) utility of the good.

What should you

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Quantity	Good Y	MU
1	10	10
2	8	8
3	6	6
4	4	4
5	3	3
6	2	2
7	1	1

Good Y	
Quantity	MU
1	10
2	8
3	6
4	4
5	3
6	2
7	1

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TRUE-FALSE QUE

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An Ambassador Reports

Dwarfs were more evenly distributed. Every Infanta of Spa
panied by a court dwarf to underscore whatever beauty she
ed. In Vienna, the Emperor Charles VI kept a famous Jewish dwarf,
Ris, as a kind of ex-officio counselor at the Imperial court. More
dwarfs were kept as human pets whose antics and droll appear-
were even more amusing and diverting than talking parrots or
that could stand on their hind legs. In Russia, dwarfs were espe-
prized. Every great noble wanted a dwarf as a symbol of status or
his wife, and competition among the nobility for their posses-
became intense. The birth of a dwarf was considered good luck
dwarfs born as serfs were often granted their freedom. To encour-
the largest possible population of dwarfs, Russians took special care
carry them together in hopes that a dwarf couple would produce
children.

It was a lavish gift when a dwarf or, even more, a pair of dwarfs was
away. In 1708, Prince Menshikov, a particularly keen collector of
wrote to his wife: "I send you a present of two girls, one of
is very small and can serve as a parrot. She is more talkative than
usual among such little people and can make you gayer than if she
a real parrot." In 1716, Menshikov appealed to Peter: "Since one
daughters possesses a dwarf girl and the other does not, therefore
you kindly to ask Her Majesty the Tsaritsa to allow me to take
of the dwarfs which were left after the death of the Tsaritsa Mar-

Peter was enormously fond of dwarfs. They had been around him all
his life. As a child, he went to church walking between two rows of
carrying red silken curtains; as tsar, he kept at court a large pop-
of dwarfs to amuse him and to play prominent roles on special
occasions. At banquets, they were placed inside huge pies; when Peter
into the pastry, a dwarf popped out. He liked to combine their
strange shapes with the mock ceremonies in which he reveled. Dwarf
dances and even dwarf funerals, closely aping the ceremonies his
court performed, set Peter to laughing so hard that tears rolled
down his cheeks.

In 1710, two days after the marriage of Peter's niece Anne to Duke
Nicholas William of Courland, a marriage of two dwarfs was cele-
brated with exactly the same ceremony and pomp as the marriage of

- Water, however, is more useful than the (total, marginal) _____ much greater than the _____.
17. The theory of consumer behavior is based on the assumption that _____ is a valuable economic resource. This is a valuable economic resource, unlimited (and, equal to) _____ earned with it. The full price to the consumer, therefore, is the market price plus the value of the consumption opportunity (benefit, cost) _____ pay for health care services is less than the value of the health care opportunity (benefit, cost) _____.
19. A comparison of food consumption with a pay-per-visit health care system shows that people tend to eat (less, more) at the buffet because the marginal utility of food is (less, more) than the marginal utility of health care. Noncash gifts are (less, more) preferred than cash gifts because the total utility of _____ is _____.

TRUE-FALSE QUESTIONS

- Circle T if the statement is true and F if it is false.
- Utility is the benefit or satisfaction from consuming a good or service.
 - Utility and usefulness are the same.
 - Marginal utility is the change in total utility from consuming one more unit of a product.
 - Because utility cannot be measured, utility theory cannot be used to explain consumer behavior.
 - The law of diminishing marginal utility states that as the quantity of a specific product consumed increases, the total utility decreases.
 - A consumer's demand curve is derived from his or her marginal utility schedule.
 - If total utility is increasing, marginal utility must be positive.
 - The theory of consumer behavior assumes that consumers act rationally.
 - All consumers are subject to the same preferences for a given product.
 - To find a consumer's demand curve, the price of the product is varied and the quantity demanded is observed.

PETER IN HOLLAND

In the second half of the seventeenth century, Holland, a term used to describe the seven United Provinces of the Northern Netherlands, was at the peak of its world power and prestige. With its dense, teeming population of two million hard-working Dutchmen crowded into a tiny area, Holland was by far the richest, most urbanized, most cosmopolitan state in Europe. Not surprisingly, the prosperity of this small state was a source of wonder and envy to its neighbors, and often this envy turned to greed. On such occasions, the Dutch drew on certain national characteristics to defend themselves. They were valiant, obstinate and resourceful, and when they fought—first against the Spaniards, then against the English and finally against the French—they fought in a way which was practical and, at the same time, desperately and sublimely heroic. To defend their independence and their democracy, a people of two million maintained an army of 120,000 and the second-largest navy in the world.

Holland's prosperity, like its freedom, rested on ingenuity and hard work. In most European nations of the day, the vast majority of the people were tied to the land, engaged in the simple process of feeding themselves and creating a small surplus to feed the towns and cities. In Holland, one Dutch peasant, by producing larger crop yields per acre, by somehow extracting more milk and butter from his cows and more

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Quantity	Good X MU	Good Y MU
1	10	10
2	8	8
3	6	6
4	4	4
5	3	3
6	2	2
7	1	1

open itself to Europe. In a sense, the flow of effect was circular: the West affected Peter, the Tsar had a powerful impact upon Russia, and Russia, modernized and emergent, had a new and greater influence on Europe. For all three, therefore—Peter, Russia and Europe—the Great Embassy was a turning point.

The Europe which Peter was setting out to visit in the spring of 1697 was dominated by the power and glory of a single man, His Most Christian Majesty, Louis XIV of France. Called the Sun King, and represented in both pageantry and art as Apollo, his rays reached out to affect every corner of European politics, diplomacy and civilization.

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PETER IN ENGLAND

At the time of Peter's visit, London and Paris were the two most populous cities in Europe. In commercial wealth, London ranked second to Amsterdam, which it was soon to succeed. What made London unique, however, was the degree to which it dominated the nation in which it lay. Like Paris, London was the national capital and seat of government, and, like Amsterdam, it was the country's greatest port, the center of its commerce, art and culture. In England, however, the size of the city dwarfed all else. London, counting its immediate environs, had 750,000 inhabitants; the next largest city in England, Bristol, had a mere 30,000. Or, to put it differently, one Englishman in ten was a Londoner; only one Frenchman in forty lived in Paris.

London in 1698 lay mainly on the north bank of the Thames, stretching from Tower Hill to the Houses of Parliament. The great boulevard of the city, spanned by a single bridge, London Bridge, was the Thames. The river, 750 feet across, flowed between marshy banks thick with reeds, interspersed with trim gardens and green meadows—its stone embankments came later. The Thames played a key role in the city's life. Always crowded with ships, it was used as a thoroughfare for getting from one part of the city to another. Hundreds of watermen rowing little boats provided a quicker, cleaner and safer service than could be had by traveling through the crowded streets. In autumn and winter, great mists and fogs swirled up from the Thames to roll through

the streets, shrouding everything in a thick, brown, poisonous vapor created by the fog mixing with the smoke pouring from thousands of chimneys.

The London that Peter visited and explored on foot was rich, vital, dirty and dangerous. The narrow streets were piled with garbage and filth which could be dropped freely from any overhanging window. Even the main avenues were dark and airless because greedy builders, anxious to gain more space, had projected upper stories out over the street. Through these Stygian alleys, crowds of Londoners jostled and pushed one another. Traffic congestion was monumental. Lines of carriages and hackney cabs cut deep ruts into the streets, so that passengers inside were tossed about, arriving breathless, nauseated and sometimes bruised. When two coaches met in a narrow street, fearful arguments ensued, with the two coachmen "saluting each other with such diabolical titles and bitter execrations as if every one was striving which should go to the Devil first." For short distances, to avoid the mud and pushing of the crowds, sedan chairs carried by two strong men were popular. Biggest of all were the overland coaches which rolled into London from the highroads, carrying commercial travelers and visitors from the country. Their destinations were the inns, where weary passengers could dine on cabbage and a pudding, Westphalian ham, chicken, beef, wine, mutton steaks and pigeons, and rise the next morning to a breakfast of ale and toast.

London was a violent city with coarse, cruel pleasures which quickly crushed the unprotected innocent. For women, the age of consent was twelve (it remained twelve in England until 1885). Crimes were common, and in some parts of the city people could not sleep for the cries of "Murder!" rising from the streets. Public floggings were a popular sight, and executions drew vast crowds. On "Hanging Day," workmen, shopkeepers and apprentices left their jobs to jam the streets, joking and laughing, and hoping to catch a glimpse of the condemned's face. Wealthy ladies and gentlemen paid for places in windows and balconies overlooking the route from Newgate Prison to Tyburn, where executions took place, or, best of all, in wooden stands especially erected to provide an unobstructed view. The most ghastly execution was the penalty for treason: hanging, drawing and quartering. The condemned man was strung up until he was almost dead from strangulation, then

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then chopped into quarters.

Sports were heavily stained with blood. Crowds paid to see bulls and
bears set upon by enraged mastiffs; often, the teeth of the bear had been
filed down and the cornered beast could only swat with his great paws
at the mastiffs that leaped and tore at him. Cockfights attracted gam-
blers, and large purses were wagered on the specially trained fowl.

But, for all its violence, London was also a city where grace, beauty
and civilized life were important. It was during this age that Sir Chris-
topher Wren, the greatest of English architects, erected fifty-two new
parish churches in London on sites wiped clean by the Great Fire.
Their thin, glittering steeples gave London a breathtakingly distinctive
skyline, dominated by Wren's masterpiece, the gigantic domed struc-
ture of St. Paul's Cathedral. The church was forty-one years in build-
ing; on the eve of Peter's arrival, the choir had just been opened for
public worship.

For intelligent men, life in London centered on hundreds of coffee
houses where the conversation could center on anything under the sun.
Gradually, the different houses began to specialize in talk about poli-
tics, religion, literature, scientific ideas, business, shipping or agricul-
ture. Choosing the house by the talk he wished to hear, a visitor could
step in, sit by the fire, sip coffee and listen to every shade of opinion
expressed in brilliant, learned and passionate terms. Good conversa-
tionalists could sharpen their wits, writers could share their dilemmas,
politicians could arrange compromises, the lonely could find simple
warmth. In Lloyd's coffee house, marine insurance had its beginnings.
At Will's, Addison was to have his chair by the fire in winter and by the
window in summer.

This was London in 1698. As for the larger polity, England itself, the
seventeenth century was a time of transition from the small, relatively
insignificant sixteenth-century island kingdom of Queen Elizabeth I to
the great European power and world empire of the eighteenth and
nineteenth centuries. When Elizabeth died in 1603, and with her the
Tudor Dynasty, England was free of the ambitions of Spain, having
beaten off Philip II and his armada. But England remained a peripheral

factor in the affairs of Europe. The dynastic question was settled when King James VI of Scotland, son of Mary Queen of Scots, came down from Edinburgh to take the English throne as James I and begin a century of Stuart rule. During the first half of this century, England was absorbed in its own problems, trying to sort out the tangled strands of religious conscience and the relative power of crown and Parliament. When the debate burst into civil war, the second Stuart, Charles I, lost his head, and for eleven years England was ruled under the stern eye of the Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell. Even when Charles II was restored to the throne in 1660, religious tension remained acute. The nation was divided between Catholic and Protestant, and, among the Protestants, between Church of England and Nonconformists.

Yet, England's power and ambitions were growing. In the mid-seventeenth century, the Dutch dominated the world's trade routes, but English seamen and merchants were eager to compete, and three naval wars with Holland jarred this Dutch supremacy. Later, during the War of the Spanish Succession, John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, won four major victories over the French armies in the field, besieged and captured supposedly invincible fortresses and was on the verge of driving the Sun King out of Versailles itself when victory was snatched from him by a government decision to end the war. England triumphed, nevertheless, not only over France but also over its own ally, Holland. The long war had overstrained even the superbly organized resources of the wealthy Dutch. The Dutch position on the continent was far more vulnerable than that of England, and during the struggle Holland's vast ocean trade was heavily restricted while that of England flourished and grew. The status of the two powers, nearly equal in the seventeenth century, changed rapidly in the eighteenth. Dutch power waned quickly and Holland slipped to the rank of a lesser state. England emerged from Marlborough's wars supreme on the oceans, and its maritime power led to world empire with colonies in every corner of the globe.

Peter's visit to England came at a pivotal moment of this transition to world power. The Treaty of Ryswick ended the first great war against Louis, with the Sun King's power held in check. The final struggle, the War of the Spanish Succession, was four years off, but already England was bustling with the energy which would fuel Marlborough's victories

on land and make the Royal Navy mistress of the seas. The wealth of England's commerce still could not compete with the fertile soil of France, but England had an insuperable advantage: it was an island. Its security lay not in the chain of fortresses that Holland maintained in the Spanish Netherlands, but in the waves and its fleet. And although fleets were expensive, they cost less than armies and fortresses. Louis raised dozens of magnificent French armies, but to do so left his people crushed by taxes. In England, the taxes voted by Parliament hurt but did not crush. Europe was amazed by the resilience of the English economy and by the apparent wealth of the English Treasury. It was a system which could not fail to impress a visiting monarch anxious to lift his people up from a simple agrarian economy and into the modern world.

H.M.S. *Yorke* was the largest warship Peter had yet sailed on, and during his twenty-four-hour trip across the Channel he watched the handling of the ship with interest. Although the weather was stormy, the Tsar remained on deck through the entire voyage, constantly asking questions. The ship was pitching and rolling in the heavy seas, but Peter insisted on going aloft to study the rigging.

Early the next morning, the little squadron arrived off the Suffolk coast and was saluted by the guns of the coastal forts. At the mouth of the Thames, Peter and Admiral Mitchell transferred from the *Yorke* onto the smaller yacht *Mary*. This yacht, escorted by two others, sailed up the Thames and, on the morning of January 11, anchored near London Bridge. Here, Peter transferred onto a royal barge and was rowed upriver to a landing quay on the Strand. He was met by a court chamberlain with a welcome from King William. Peter replied in Dutch, and Admiral Mitchell, who spoke Dutch, acted as translator. Peter admired Mitchell, and his first request to the King was that Mitchell be assigned as his official escort and translator throughout his stay.

Peter spent his first days in London in a house at 21 Norfolk Street. At his request, the building selected was small and simple, with a door opening directly onto the riverbank. Two days after the Tsar's arrival, the King himself paid an informal visit. Arriving in a small, unmarked carriage, William found the Tsar still in shirt sleeves in the bedroom he

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The Europe which Peter was setting out to visit in the spring of 1697 was dominated by the power and glory of a single man, His Most Christian Majesty, Louis XIV of France. Called the Sun King, and represented in both pageantry and art as Apollo, his rays reached out to affect every corner of European politics, diplomacy and civilization.

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He was born to the throne, the sweep of his majesty on his character—his massive ego and absolute authority—more than on his physical or political inheritance. In physical terms, he was short even for that day—only five feet four inches tall, with a broad and powerful, well-muscled legs which he loved to show off in his stockings. His eyes were brown, he had a long, straight nose, a sensuous mouth and chestnut hair, which, as he appeared in public beneath a wig of long black curls. The day he was crowned when he was nine had left his cheeks

On May 5, 1638, the belated first fruit of a marriage after twenty-three years. The death of his father, Louis XIII, the boy King of France at four. During his childhood, he was with his mother, Anne of Austria, and her

chief minister (who was perhaps also her lover), Cardinal Mazarin, the protégé of and successor to the great Richelieu. When Louis was nine, France erupted into the limited revolution known as the Fronde. This humiliation scarred the boy King, and even before the death of Mazarin he was determined to be his own master, to allow no minister to dominate him as Richelieu had dominated his father and Mazarin his mother. Nor, for the rest of his life, did Louis ever willingly set foot in the narrow, turbulent streets of Paris.

Louis was always a country man. In the first years of his reign, he traveled with the court back and forth between the great royal châteaux outside Paris, but kings of France, especially great kings, built their own palaces to reflect their personal glory. In 1668, Louis chose the site of his own palace, the land of his father's small hunting château at Versailles, twelve miles west of Paris. Here, on a sandy knoll rising only slightly above the rolling woodland of the Ile de France, the King ordered his architect, Le Vau, to build. For years, the work continued. Thirty-six thousand men labored on the scaffolding which surrounded the building or toiled in the mud and dust of the developing gardens, planting trees, laying drainpipes, erecting statues of marble and bronze. Six thousand horses dragged timbers or blocks of stone on carts and sledges. The mortality rate was high. Nightly, wagons carried away the dead who had fallen from a scaffolding or been crushed by the unexpected sliding of a heavy piece of stone. Malarial fever raged through the crude barracks of the workmen, killing dozens every week. In 1682, when the château was finally finished, Louis had built the greatest palace in the world. It had no ramparts: Louis had built his seat undefended, in the open country, to demonstrate the power of a monarch who had no need of moats and walls to protect his person.

Behind a façade one fifth of a mile in length were enormous public galleries, council chambers, libraries, private apartments for the royal family, boudoirs and a private chapel, not to mention corridors, stairways, closets and kitchens. In decoration, Versailles has been said to represent the most conspicuous consumption of art and statuary since the days of the Roman empire. Throughout the palace, the high ceilings and great doors were emblazoned in gold with the mark of Apollo, the sign of the flaming sun, the symbol of the builder and occupant of this enormous palace. The walls were covered with patterned velvet,

paneled in marble or hung with tapestries, the windows curtained with embroidered velvet in winter and flowered silk in summer. At night, thousands of candles flickered in hundreds of glass chandeliers and silver candelabra. The rooms were furnished with exquisite inlaid furniture—gilded tables whose legs were scrolled or decorated with flowers and leaves, and broad-backed chairs upholstered with velvet. In the private apartments, rich carpets were laid over inlaid floors and the walls were hung with huge paintings by Andrea del Sarto, Titian, Raphael, Rubens and Van Dyck. In Louis' bedroom hung the "Mona Lisa."

The gardens, designed by Le Nôtre, were as spectacular as the palace. Millions of flowers, bushes and trees were laid out with precise geometrical precision amidst grassy avenues, terraces, ramps and staircases, ponds, lakes, fountains and cascades. The fountains, with 1,500 jets of water spouting from octagonal lakes, became—and remain—the envy of the world. Tiny clipped hedges curved into ornate designs, separating flowers of every color and description, many of them changed daily. The King was especially fond of tulips, and every year (when he was not at war with Holland) four million tulip bulbs were imported from Dutch nurseries to turn Versailles flaming crimson and brilliant yellow in spring. The King's passion for orange trees led Le Nôtre to design a huge orangery, depressed below the open air so that the trees would be protected from the wind. Even this was not enough, and Louis brought some of his orange trees indoors and kept them by the windows of his private rooms, planted in silver tubs.

Standing at the tall windows of the *Galleries des Glaces* in the palace's western façade, the King could look down long prospects of grass, stone and water, adorned with sculpture, to the Grand Canal. This body of water, constructed in the shape of a huge cross, was more than a mile long. Here the King was taken to boat and sail. On summer evenings, the entire court boarded gondolas sent as a gift from the Doge of Venice, and spent hours floating and drifting beneath the stars while Lully and the court orchestra, on a raft nearby, filled the air with music.

Versailles became the symbol of the supremacy, wealth, power and majesty of the richest and most powerful prince in Europe. Everywhere on the continent, other princes recorded their friendship, their envy, their defiance of Louis by building palaces in emulation of his—even princes who were at war with France. Each of them wanted a Versailles

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of his own, and demanded that his architects and craftsmen create pal-
aces, gardens, furniture, tapestries, carpets, silver, glass and porcelain
in imitation of Louis' masterpiece. In Vienna, Potsdam, Dresden, at
Hampton Court and later in St. Petersburg, buildings arose and were
decorated under the stimulus of Versailles. Even the long avenues and
stately boulevards of Washington, D.C., which was laid out over a
century later, were geometrically designed by a French architect in
imitation of Versailles.

Louis loved Versailles, and when distinguished visitors were pres-
ent, the King personally conducted them through the palace and gar-
dens. But the palace was much more than Europe's most gorgeous
pleasure dome; it had a serious political purpose. The King's philoso-
phy rested on total concentration of power in the hands of the mon-
arch; Versailles became the instrument. The vast size of the palace
made it possible for the King to summon and house there all the im-
portant nobility of France. Into Versailles, as if drawn by an enormous
magnet, came all the great French dukes and princes; the rest of the
country, where the heads of these ancient houses had lands, heritage,
power and responsibilities, was left deserted and ignored. At Versailles,
with power out of their reach, the French nobility became the orna-
ment of the King, not his rival.

Louis drew the nobles to him, and once they were there, he did not
abandon them to dreariness and boredom. At the Sun King's command,
Versailles blazed with light. A ceaseless round of intricate protocol and
brilliant entertainment kept everyone busy from morning until night.
Everything revolved in minute detail around the King. His bedroom
was placed at the very center of the palace, looking eastward over the
Cours de Marbre. From eight o'clock in the morning, when the cur-
tains of the royal bed were drawn aside and Louis woke to hear, "Sire,
it is time," the monarch was on parade. He rose, was rubbed down with
rosewater and spirits of wine, was shaved and dressed, observed by the
most fortunate of his subjects. Dukes helped him to pull off his night-
shirt and pull on his breeches. Courtiers argued over who was to bring
the King his shirt. They jostled for the privilege of presenting the King
with his chaise percée (his "chair with a hole in it"), then crowded
around while the King performed his daily natural functions. There
was a throng in his chamber when he prayed with his chaplain, and

when he ate. It followed as he walked through the palace, strolled through the gardens, went to the theater or rode to his hounds. Protocol determined who had a right to sit in the King's presence, whether on a chair with a back or only on a stool. So glorified was the monarch that even when his dinner was passing by, courtiers raised their hats and swept them on the ground in salute, declaring respectfully, "La viande du roi" ("The King's dinner").

Louis loved to hunt. Every day in good weather, he rode with sword or spear in hand, following baying dogs through the forest in pursuit of boar or stag. Every evening, there was music and dancing and gambling at which fortunes were won and lost. Every Saturday night, there was ball. Often, there were masquerades, elaborate three-day festivals at which the entire court dressed up as Romans, Persians, Turks or Red Indians. The feasts at Versailles were gargantuan. Louis himself ate for four men. Wrote the Princess Palatine: "I have often seen the King eat on different plates of soup of different kinds, a whole pheasant, a partridge, a large plate of salad, two thick slices of ham, a dish of mushrooms in garlic-flavored sauce, a plateful of pastries, and then fruit and hard-boiled eggs. Both the King and 'Monsieur' [Louis' younger brother] were exceedingly fond of hard-boiled eggs." The King's grandchildren were taught the polite innovation of using a fork to eat with, but when they were invited to dine with the monarch, he would have none of it and forbade them using these tools, declaring, "I have never in my life used anything to eat with but my knife and my fingers."

The main feast at Versailles was a feast of love. The enormous palace with its numberless rooms to slip away to, its crisscrossing alleys, trees, its statues to hide behind, made a gorgeous stage. In this, everything, the King played the leading role. Louis' wife, Maria Theresa, who had come to him as an infanta of Spain, was a simple child-like creature with large blue eyes. She surrounded herself with half a dozen dwarfs and dreamed of Spain. As long as she lived, Louis upheld his marriage duties, finding his way into her bed eventually every night, dutifully making love to her twice a month. The courtiers knew these occasions by the fact that the Queen went to confession the following day and her face had a special glow. But the Queen was not enough for Louis. He was highly sexed, always inclined to bed with any woman who was handy and relentless in pursuit. "Kiss

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